



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
GOLF COURSE EXTENSION
SOUTH FARM
BELFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND
JUNE 1994

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 23 ha of land south-east of Belford, Northumberland was carried out in June 1994.

20.6 ha of this was in agricultural use of which 12.5 ha falls in Subgrade 3a. Soils within this subgrade are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III). Medium clay loam topsoils overlie gleyed permeable medium clay loam or sandy clay loam upper subsoils, which become slowly permeable at between 45 and 55 cm depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by moderate soil wetness restrictions.

8.1 ha of the site is classified as Subgrade 3b. Soils within this subgrade are poorly drained, falling within Wetness Class IV. Medium clay loam topsoils overlie gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam, clay and silty clay subsoils. Slowly permeable layers begin at between 30 and 40 cm depth. The land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability restrictions.

The remaining 2.4 ha of the site is occupied by the existing golf course to the north and is classified as non-agricultural.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT SOUTH FARM,
BELFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND; PROPOSED GOLF COURSE EXTENSION

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies ½ km south-east of Belford and lies directly west of the A1(T). It is centred around National Grid Reference NU 115335. The site was surveyed in June 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals at points predetermined by the National Grid. Two soil inspection pits were dug to assess subsoil structure. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales. Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey the majority of the site was under grass. The remainder, to the north of the site, was non-agricultural, consisting of the existing golf course. Relief is gentle with slopes not exceeding 3°. Average altitude is 43 m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NU 115 335
Altitude	: 43
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1286
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 631
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 160
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 93
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 80

1.4 Geology, soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by lower Carboniferous Limestone which is covered by a layer of Boulder Clay with a small alluvial area. Soil profiles generally consist of medium clay

loam with occasional medium silty clay loam topsoils, overlying gleyed medium or heavy clay loam upper subsoils. These pass into heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils which become slowly permeable at between 30 and 55 cm depth, and are therefore imperfectly to poorly drained (Wetness Class III-IV).

2 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a	12.5	54.3
3b	8.1	35.2
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(20.6)	(89.5)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	2.4	10.5
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(2.4)	(10.5)
TOTAL	23.0	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the north, south and eastern parts of the site. Topsoils consists of very slightly stony (2% small and medium subrounded, rounded and subangular hardstones) medium clay loam and medium silty clay loam topsoils. Upper subsoils generally consist of slightly stony, permeable, gleyed clay loam or sandy clay loam. Lower subsoils consists of stoneless to very slightly stony (2% total) gleyed, slowly permeable

heavy clay loam, clay or silty clay. Slowly permeable layers begin at between 45 and 55 cm depth and profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III). This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness restrictions.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

The remaining agricultural land falls within Subgrade 3b. Soil profiles generally consist of stoneless to very slightly stony (2% total) medium clay loam topsoils, overlying gleyed slowly permeable very slightly stony (5% total) heavy clay loam, clay or silty clay subsoils. Soils are slowly permeable from between 20 and 40 cm depth, and are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV. The land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability problems.

2.3 Non-Agricultural Land

This consists of the existing golf course in the north of the site

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